

CHIMIA REPORT/COMPANY NEWS

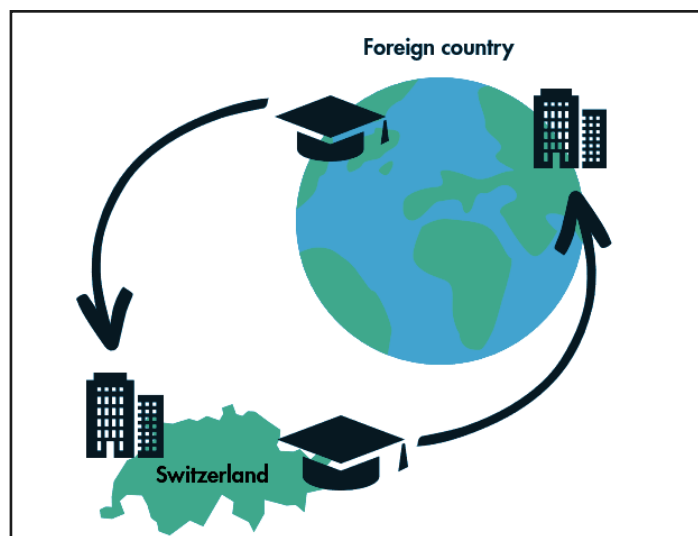
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Swiss Chemical Society, info@scg.ch, +41 31 306 92 92

IAESTE Switzerland – supporting the next generation through professional and cultural experiences

IAESTE is an international exchange organisation which provides students, primarily from technical and science fields, with internship opportunities abroad. The organisation was founded by ten European higher education institutions, including ETH Zurich, and has celebrated this year its 75th anniversary. Today, IAESTE is comprised of more than 60 member countries across the globe, covering every continent. More than 300,000 students have already benefited from the unique opportunity to complete an internship abroad with IAESTE.

Our internship program is based on an exchange concept: for each internship offered in Switzerland, we receive an internship abroad for a student studying in a Swiss university. By offering an internship with us, Swiss employers therefore offer an opportunity not only to one but to two students to obtain a unique professional and cultural experience.



Employers are very much at the heart of our programme - without the internships they offer, our exchange cannot exist. The placements offered through IAESTE are a life-changing opportunity for our local and international students. The wonderful testimonials we receive from them are a testament to the value of the IAESTE programme and the impact the internships have.

“It was an amazing experience, I learned a lot. Not only about the project I was working on or about the professional career, but also about life, culture and values. I would do this internship once more, without hesitation.”

Vidrih T., former EMPA intern from Slovenia

Working with IAESTE as an employer

But these experiences are not only valuable for the student, employers themselves also witness positive impacts for their companies as well – international interns bring new perspectives,

help teams improve their language skills and increase cultural awareness.

IAESTE Switzerland works with an array of employers, from startups and family-run businesses to universities and international companies that also cover a range of fields. In Material Science and chemical engineering for example, we regularly have students interning at Empa - Swiss Federal Laboratories for Materials Science and Technology, as well as with local companies such as Siloxene AG, Bachema AG and TreaTech. For many of these interns, their placement is the steppingstone to long-term careers with their employers. Siloxene AG for instance has several former IAESTE interns now working full and part-time.

“[The IAESTE] program is amazing, allowing researchers and companies to meet young talented people and introducing them in a hands-on manner to what their future jobs might look like.”

Dr. Matthias Koebel, founder of Siloxene AG

For some employers, the prospect of hiring international interns may seem daunting – recruiting across borders, the additional administrative load with visa and permit requests and concerns about integration - at IAESTE we strive to make the process as smooth as possible, alleviating these hurdles. We aim to ensure employers reap the benefits of hiring international students without enduring the administrative hassles. As part of our services, IAESTE takes care of the recruitment process in collaboration with our international colleagues, and we manage visa requests when needed. In addition, all IAESTE interns are accompanied by a tutor who will provide support before and during their placement, answering any questions they may have and assisting in finding accommodation. Our volunteers also organize networking and cultural activities to help interns make friends and discover their host country.



Together, our employers, partners, volunteers and interns make up the strong IAESTE community – a family that extends beyond borders and contributes to international knowledge sharing, global innovation and youth development.

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